



**The Selectboard**  
TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON  
TOWN HALL  
1 SOUTH ROAD  
WESTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01027

**MINUTES of the MEETING**  
Monday, August 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting to be held on Monday, August 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Town Offices, 1 South Road.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

*Present: Dempsey, Johndrow, Bronstein.*

*Also present: Douglas Finn, Mary Lou Burgess.*

**Department Reports**

Mr. Finn provided a brief update on behalf of the highway superintendent – business as usual, with the minimal rain over the previous 10 days not causing too much disruption to local dirt roads. Mr. Finn noted that he would be working with Mr. Jablonski and Mass DOT to find grant money for infrastructure design services.

**Old Business**

**Followup – Zoning Bylaw Public Hearing**

The board discussed the recent Planning Board public hearing, held to hear public comment about a proposed significant change to the Zoning Bylaw.

Mr. Finn noted that, if held in the fall, a special town meeting would also provide an opportunity for the Selectboard to amend the general bylaw if needed or desired. He also noted at least two bills from previous years that needed to be paid (an act requiring a 9/10 vote of Town Meeting for approval).

The board spoke about possible warrant articles that would propose

- a general bylaw enabling the town to enforce violations using non-criminal disposition,
- a minor edit to Article 2 of the general bylaw, removing the word “elected” from the chapter, as it no longer applies;
- minor changes to the general bylaw that would remove gender-specific pronouns from the text;
- expansion of role of Treasurer, specifically outlining the duties of the office;
- adoption of MGL Chapter 60, Section 62A, and changes to the duties of the Treasurer, in order to authorize the Treasurer to enter into agreements for the payment of outstanding property tax;
- establishment of deadlines for submission of warrant articles by third parties;

After discussion, the board agreed to consider a tentative date for a Special Town Meeting in the early part of November under New Business.

### Followup – Library Roof

The board reviewed and discussed progress related to the reported leaks in the library roof. Ms. Dempsey noted that any work would have to be done in cooperation with Library Board of Trustees. The board expects more information after an inspection of the roof is done, noting that Mr. Phil Dowling will be coordinating that inspection with Ostrow Electric, the contractor that installed the solar array some years back. No further action.

### Followup – WES MiniSplit Installs

Mr. Finn noted that the MiniSplit installation at the Elementary School would be starting on Thursday, August 17.

### Followup – Cable Contract Negotiations

Ms. Bronstein provided a report about a recent meeting with Eileen Leahy; Ms. Bronstein noted that the town should be able to work with MBI to secure funding for ‘last mile’ extension of the Comcast plant. Mr. Finn will be working on producing an ‘ascertainment’ report in support of a potential PEG Access television facility in Westhampton, and would provide a report at a later meeting.

## New Business<sup>1</sup>

### Set Date for Fall Special Town Meeting; Open STM Warrant.

Mr. Finn recommended a fall Special Town Meeting during the first part of November 4; open warrant. After discussion, the board agreed to call a Special Town Meeting on November 4, 2023, 9 AM, and to open the Warrant.

## Administrative

### Review Correspondence

A ‘Farm Tour’ announcement from the office of US Senator Jim McGovern note was handed to selectboard members.

### Administrative Update (Finn)

Mr. Finn noted that he would be attending the MCTA annual “School” at UMass on August 15-17, focusing on the year-one Treasurer’s track.

### Review and Sign: Payroll and A/P Warrants: W24-04, WP24-04

After review, it was MOVED by Bronstein, SECONDED by Johndrow

*To approve W24-04 and WP24-04 as presented.*

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:29 PM)

### Review and Sign: Minutes from Previous Meetings

The minutes were reviewed. Mr. Finn noted minor corrections. It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Bronstein.

*To approve as amended.*

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:31 PM)

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<sup>1</sup> *New Business may include items not reasonably anticipated 24 hours in advance of meeting.*

**Set date for Next Meetings**

The board agreed to meet on August 28, and September 11.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, it was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Bronstein  
*To adjourn.*

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. 7:36 PM  
Respectfully submitted,

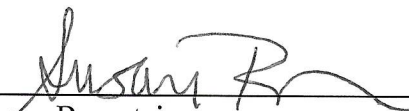
Douglas C. Finn

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**Approved** by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting, held on August 28, 2023.

  
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Maureen Dempsey

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Scott Johndrow

  
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Susan Bronstein